GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2171
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
POTABLE WATER FROM SEA
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;TARUN GOGOI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has recently developed a new technology to convert sea water into potable water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch pilot projects in major cities to get potable water from sea;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with the Government of coastal States and private agencies to provide technology for setting up commercial plants for converting sea water into potable water; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two processes viz. Multi Stage Flash (MSF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) have been developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for obtaining drinking water from the ocean. A demonstration plant is being setup at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu which will produce 6300m3/day of drinking water from sea water out of which 4500m3/day will be produced by MSF technology while the balance of 1800m3/day will be by RO technology. This demonstration plant is linked to the Madras Atomic Power Station for supply of steam and electricity and is scheduled to be commissioned by March 2002.

(c) There is no such proposal at present. Such a scheme can be thought of only after gaining operational & maintenance experience for a few years, after which the production process can be standardised for large scale operations.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) This can be considered only at a later stage after successful commissioning of the demonstration plant.